

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-17 are pending in the application. Claim 1 has been amended to better define the claimed invention. New claims 15-17 have been added to provide Applicants with the scope of protection to which they are believed entitled. The amended/new claims find solid support in the original specification, e.g., paragraphs 0037, 0081 and 0083 of the *published* application. No new matter has been introduced through the foregoing amendments.

The repeated rejections of all original claims are noted. The Examiner's response to Applicants' arguments is also noted. Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's position for at least the reasons presented in the previous Amendment paper which are incorporated by reference herein to avoid repetition. The finally rejected claims are therefore believed to patentably define over the applied art of record.

Notwithstanding the above and solely for the purpose of expediting prosecution, Applicants have further amended independent claim 1 to specifically avoid the rejections.

In particular, in response to the Examiner's comment that the claims do not require each entry of the encyclopedia to include both structured and unstructured information, the feature is now positively recited in amended independent claim 1. None of the applied references appear to teach or suggest the newly added feature. The references at best teach individually using unstructured, natural language information only (e.g., *Kupiec* at column 9 lines 5-10 and *Saito* at FIG. 5, box 207) or, as alleged by the Examiner, structured information only (*Saito* at the Examiner's cited paragraph 0055, lines 12-14). There is no disclosure or suggestion of using both structured and unstructured information in the applied references. Therefore, amended independent claim 1 is patentable over the art.

In response to the Examiner's allegation that *Saito* discloses the claimed automatic extraction in paragraph 0006, Applicants respectfully disagree, and reproduce the cited portion of the reference herein below for the Examiner's convenience of review and reconsideration:

[0006] In order to solve the above and other problems, according to a first aspect of the current invention, a method of generating a search template for retrieving information from documents, including: inputting a first document; dividing the first document into areas, the areas including a text area containing text and an image area containing an image; displaying the areas to an end user; selecting at least one of the areas based upon an user-defined input, the user-defined input including a label for the selected area; automatically determining a predetermined set of characteristics of the selected area; and storing the user-defined input and the characteristics as a part of the search template.

Applicants note the Examiner's reliance on the *Saito* teaching of "automatically determining a predetermined set of characteristics of the selected area." However, the area is selected based on the user input (see the highlighted text above) without which the "automatically determining" cannot be performed. Therefore, the "automatically determining" of *Saito* still depends on user input and is not readable on the claimed automatic extraction.

Finally, amended claim 1 now recites, among other things, that "wherein the unstructured information automatically extracted in the step (c) from the body of the entry is the information omitted from the summary information of said entry, and is subsequently reformed and constructed in the form of the summary information for storing in the step (d), thereby enhancing completion of the knowledge base." Thus, the amended claim requires that information omitted from the summary, but otherwise available in unstructured format of the body, be extracted and stored in the knowledge base in structured format. The added feature has an advantage in that the completion of the knowledge base can be therefore enhanced. None of the applied references appear to fairly teach or suggest the now claimed invention, and therefore, amended claim 1 is patentable over the art.

The dependent claims are considered patentable at least for the reasons advanced with respect to independent claim 1.

New claim 15 is separately patentable because the applied references do not fairly teach or suggest that the step (d) comprises storing the attribute name and associated attribute values automatically extracted from the unstructured information of the body of the entry only if the extracted attribute name does not exist in the knowledge base according to said entry. In other words, if the attribute name extracted from the body already exists in the knowledge base (i.e., it has been extracted from the summary) the attribute name and the associated attribute values will not be stored again to avoid repetition/conflict of information. None of the applied references appear to fairly teach or suggest the now claimed invention.

New claims 16-17 include limitations similar to claim 15 using different claim language. claims 16-17 are, therefore, also patentable over the art for at least the same reason presented above with respect to claim 15.

Accordingly, all claims in the present application, namely, are now in condition for allowance. Early and favorable indication of allowance is courteously solicited.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned, Applicant's attorney of record, to facilitate advancement of the present application.

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To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 07-1337 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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